

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PEKING 01252 210952Z
ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02
SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 ACDA-07 DODE-00 IO-13
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FM USLO PEKING
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8039
INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY GABERONE
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 1252

E.O. 1652: GDS
TAGS: MASS CH RH

SUBJ: MUGABE VISITS PEKING, DENOUNCES SOVIETS

SUMMARY: RHODESIAN LIBERATION MOVEMENT LEADER ROBERT MUGABE HAS ARRIVED IN PEKING, APPARENTLY ON AN ARMS-SEEKING MISSION. AT HIS WELCOMING BANQUET, HE DENOUNCED THE SOVIET UNION FOR TRYING TO SEEK SPHERES OF INFLUENCE THROUGH THEIR ARMS AID POLICY. END SUMMARY.

1. PEKING'S OFFICIAL NEWCHINA NEWS AGENCY ANNOUNCED JUNE 21 THAT ZANU GENERAL SECRETARY ROBERT MUGABE HAD ARRIVED THE PREVIOUS DAY AT THE HEAD OF A DELEGATION INCLUDING ZANU SECRETARY FOR DEFENSE JOSIAH TONGOGERA.
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MUGABE'S "ZIMBABWE FRIENDSHIP DELEGATION" IS VISITING CHINA AT THE INVITATION OF THE CHINESE PEOPLE'S ASSOCIATION FOR FRIENDSHIP WITH FOREIGN COUNTRIES, WHICH NORMALLY SPONSORS VISITS BY NON-OFFICIAL POLITICAL FIGURES. THE EVENING OF THEIR ARRIVAL, THEY WERE WELCOMED AT A BANQUET BY FRIENDSHIP ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT WANG PING-NAN, WHOSE TOAST CALLED UPON ZIMBABWE

NATIONALISTS TO "STRENGTHEN THEIR UNITY, RAISE THEIR VIGILANCE, PERSIST IN STRUGGLE AND RELY ON THEIR OWN EFFORTS".

2. IN HIS REPLY, MUGABE SEEMS TO HAVE ADOPTED THE PEKING ANTI-SOVIET FOREIGN POLICY LINE IN TOTO. AFTER DECLARING POINTEDLY THAT "THE CHINESE PEOPLE ARE GENUINELY AIDING AND SUPPORTING THE PEOPLE OF ZIMBABWE IN THEIR STRUGGLE," HE WENT ON TO CHARGE THAT THE "AID" RENDERED BY SOCIAL-IMPERIALISM IS OUT OF THE ULTERIOR MOTIVE OF GRABBING SPHERES OF INFLUENCE, CONTENDING FOR HEGEMONY AND FOSTERING PUPPETS THERE. WHILE STATING THAT BOTH WESTERN IMPERIALISM AND SOCIAL-IMPERIALISM WERE DANGEROUS, HE ADDED THAT "THE MENACE FROM SOCIAL-IMPERIALISM IN PARTICULAR IS MORE INSIDIOUS AND DANGEROUS".

3. VICE PREMIER LI HSIEN-NIEN, HOSTING A BANQUET FOR SOMALI VICE PRESIDENT ISMAIL ALI ABUCAR THE SAME EVENING, DEVOTED A PARAGRAPH OF HIS OWN SPEECH TO THE RHODESIAN STRUGGLE, WHICH WAS THEN EXCERPTED BY NCNA AND GIVEN FRONT PAGE COVERAGE IN PEOPLE'S DAILY. LI DENOUNCED RHODESIA "MASSIVE MILITARY AGGRESSION" AGAINST MOZAMBIQUE, AND EXPRESSED THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE'S FULL SYMPATHY AND SUPPORT FOR THE PEOPLE OF MOZAMBIQUE AND SOUTHERN AFRICA IN THEIR "JUST STRUGGLE AGAINST WHITE RACISM". WHILE CONTAINING NOTHING NEW, CONFIDENTIAL

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LI'S SPEECH IS THE HIGHEST-LEVEL STATEMENT BY THE PRC ON SOUTHERN AFRICA IN SOME MONTHS. IT FOLLOWS BY LESS THAN TWO WEEKS A PEOPLE'S DAILY COMMENTARY WHICH CONCLUDED THAT "ARMED STRUGGLE IS MOST DIRECTLY WAY

TO INDEPENDENCE AND LIBERATION OF ZIMBABWE".

4. COMMENT: PREVIOUS REPORTING HAD INDICATED THAT THE CHINESE WERE LOSING GROUND AMONG THE VARIOUS RHODESIAN LIBERATION MOVEMENTS, WHO WERE INCREASINGLY TURNING TO MOSCOW FOR SUPPORT. MUGABE'S SPEECH (THE CHINESE HAVE PRINTED ONLY EXCERPTS, NOT THE COMPLETE TEXT) SEEMS TO INDICATE HIS MOVEMENT'S DISILLUSIONMENT WITH THE SOVIETS AND THEIR WILLINGNESS TO PARROT THE PEKING LINE IN AN EFFORT TO GAIN CHINESE AID. (WE DO NOT EXCLUDE THE POSSIBILITY THAT MUGABE MAY HAVE SOME MAJOR GRIEVANCE AGAINST MOSCOW, BUT WE HAVE SEEN NO EVIDENCE OF THIS). THE CHINESE RESPONSE SO FAR SEEMS TO BE RELATIVELY COOL, IF WANG'S ADMONITION ON SELF-RELIANCE IS ANY GUIDE. NEVERTHELESS, THE CHINESE HAVE GIVEN ARMS AID TO THE LIBERATION MOVEMENTS BEFORE, AND

MAY FIND IT DIFFICULT TO REFUSE A REQUEST FROM A
LEADER WHO IS WILLING TO TAKE SO FIRM A ANTI-SOVIET LINE.
THOMAS

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Message Attributes

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